

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-0609V

Filed: February 14, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

EVANGELINA SALINAS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine;  
Cellulitis; Sepsis

*Nancy Routh Meyers, Ward Black Law, Greensboro, NC, for petitioner.*

*Amy Paula Kokot, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On May 5, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered from sepsis as a result of left arm cellulitis caused by her July 22, 2016 Prevnar 13 pneumococcal conjugate vaccination. Petition at 1-2. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On September 4, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for cellulitis and sepsis. On February 14, 2019, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$45,000.00, as well as \$96.05 to satisfy a Medicaid lien. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. Based

<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer. *Id.*

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards the following compensation, which** represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a):

1. **A lump sum payment of \$45,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Evangelina Salinas; and**
2. **A lump sum payment of \$96.05**, representing compensation for satisfaction of the State of North Carolina Medicaid lien, payable jointly to petitioner and to:

North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance  
Office of the Controller  
2022 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2022  
Case Number: 296151

Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance.

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**  
Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.



## II. Form of the Award

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner be made through two lump sum payments as described below:

- (1) A lump sum payment of **\$45,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>1</sup>
- (2) A lump sum payment of **\$96.05**, representing compensation for satisfaction of the State of North Carolina Medicaid lien, payable jointly to petitioner and to:

North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance  
Office of the Controller  
2022 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2022  
Case Number: 296151

Petitioner agrees to endorse this payment to the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH H. HUNT  
Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to the entry of judgment, respondent reserves the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.

s/Amy P. Kokot  
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Dated: February 14, 2019